Community-based universal health insurance scheme

182 SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Community-based Universal Health Insurance Scheme announced in the budget speech has since been launched;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) when it was launched and the response of the public to the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Universal Health Insurance Policy provides for reimbursement of medical expenses upto Rs. 30,000/- towards hospitalisation, floated amongst the entire family, death cover due to an accident for Rs. 25,000/- to the earning head of the family and compensation due to loss of earning of the earning head of the family @ Rs. 50/- per day upto a miximum of 15 days, after a waiting period of three days, when the earning head of the family is hospitalised. The premium under the Policy is Re: 1/- per day *(i.e.* Rs. 365/- per year) for an individual, Rs. 1.50 per day for a family of five limited to spouse and children, and Rs. 2/- per day for covering dependent parents within the overall family size of seven. A subsidy of Rs. 100/- per family per year towards annual premium for "Below Poverty Line" families is also provided under the Scheme.

Some of the public sector general insurance companies had test-run this Policy on a pilot scale, in April, 2003 in 'Mumbai' and 'Bhopal'. The Policy was formally launched on a countrywide basis by the Prime Minister on 14th July, 2003. The initial response to the Policy has been encouraging.

Recommendations of expert committee on currency notes

183. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since examined the recommendations of the expert committee on increasing the life of Indian notes; and